

American Studies News

British Association for American Studies Teachers' Conference 1980

Teachers in Schools and Colleges are invited to register early for a BAAS Jubilee Year Teachers' Conference, and BAAS extends an invitation to Teachers of American Studies in Europe. The focus of the conference will be:

AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE CLASSROOM

Dates:

From the evening of Monday, 31st March 1980 to the morning of Friday, 4th April 1980.

Venue:

Digby Stuart College, a constituent college of the Roehampton Institute of Higher Education, in South-West London. The college will provide full board and accommodation, and all conference facilities. It is situated near Barnes, between Putney and Richmond, a half-hour journey from Waterloo Station and with easy access to Heathrow.

The College is also willing to offer at an extra but reasonable charge, accommodation only, to delegates who wish to stay in London over the Easter weekend. The charge will be under £8.00 per night.

Charges:

The inclusive Conference Fee to European delegates will not be more than £50.00 payable in Sterling Money Orders. Delegates who wish to participate as day members will be charged proportionately less.

Booking:

Booking will open on March 1st 1979 and the final date for registration is November 30th 1979. A finalised programme will be published in the Summer BAAS Newsletter, and sent to the EAAS Newsletter and to the individual Associations.

All Enquiries, correspondence and Bookings should be addressed to:

Faith M. Shaw, BAAS Teachers Conference Secretary,

2A Putney Park Avenue, London SW15 5QN

Provisional Programme:

Monday, 31st March: Evening and Afternoon:

Arrivals, Evening Reception and Meal, and Late-night Film.

Tuesday, 1st April

"A Thematic Approach to American Studies"

A choice of workshops in the morning and the afternoon, led by Teachers on a selection of American Studies themes. Each topic will be introduced by a Teacher who will describe how they have taught this aspect in their school or college, and present and use the materials they have found available and appropriate. Groups can then discuss and compare approaches in their small groups and plan alternative methods after the presentation.

Probable Thematic Topics:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Immigration | 5. Isolationism v. Internationalism |
| 2. The City | 6. The West |
| 3. Regionalism and Sectionalism | 7. The Industrial Society |
| 4. Search for Equality | 8. Religion |

Evening: Conference Dinner.

Wednesday, 2nd April

"Change and Continuity in the U.S.A.: a variety of approaches"

Conference members will meet in larger groups on the second day and participate in case-study workshops led by a team of teachers. There will be a choice of four to six options so that each delegate can join a morning and an afternoon group. These sessions will provide an opportunity for delegates to bring and share their own resources and curriculum materials.

Probable areas of focus will be:

- a) The Thirties: Did the New Deal create a fundamental change?
- b) Images of Change and Continuity in American Painting.
- c) The Novel and Social Change.
- d) The Civil War: Change or Continuity?
- e) Impact and Interaction: Science, Technology and Society.
- f) The Changing Relationship between Politics and Foreign Policy.

Evening: An evening of Music and Dance: "You can't sit this one out" or "Learning by doing".

Thursday, 3rd April

Plenary sessions of Lectures and Discussion.

- 1. Current thinking on the teaching of Historical Geography of the U.S.A.
- 2. American Studies through film and photography.
- 3. American Studies as Cultural Studies.
- 4. An open session . . . an opportunity for reports from the various groups and workshops, and from delegates from different countries.

Evening: Dinner and Lecture by a Guest Speaker.

Friday, 4th April

The Conference will disperse after breakfast.

During the Conference there will be a comprehensive Book and Audio-visual display, and opportunities for delegates to view A-V material. There will also be Banking facilities on one day. All other enquiries to Faith Shaw.